Ruthin Rural District Council

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
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ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1945.

BY THE

Medical Officer of Health
(Dr. T. O. JONES)

Printed at the Free Press Office, Denbigh.

Ruthin Rural District Council

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Medical Officer of Health
(Dr. T. O. JONES)

To the Chairman and Members of the Ruthin Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report upon the Sanitary condition of the District, with various statistics, for the year ended 31st December, 1945.

Area (in acres)	101,032
Estimated Population	9,746
Rateable Value	£42,075
Sum represented by penny rate	£175

LIVE BIRTHS.

The total number of births was 143, being 84 males and 59 females, 9 males and 7 females being illegitimate. Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population being 14.6 as compared with 15.3 for the previous year and 16.1 for England and Wales for the present year.

STILL BIRTHS.

The total number of still births was 5, being 4 males and 1 female, 1 male being illegitimate. Rate per 1,000 total births equals 33 and 0.51 per thousand population as compared with the rate of 19 and 0.29 respectively for the previous year and 0.46 for England and Wales for the present year.

DEATHS.

60 males and 62 females—total 122, equal to a death rate per 1,000 of estimated population of 12.5, as compared with 11.08 for the previous year and 11.4 for England and Wales for the present year.

Deaths from :—

Puerperal Sepsis	1
Other Maternal Causes	1

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	75
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 live births	62
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 live births	13
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE

One death was attributable to Cerebro Spinal fever, and one to Influenza, equal to a rate per 1,000 deaths registered of 16 and 0.20 per 1,000 population.

MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	2
Cancer	25
Cerebral Haemorrhage	19
Heart Diseases	25
Bronchitis	3
Pneumonia	7
Nephritis	3
Influenza	1
Congenital Debility Premature Birth	9
Diabetes	Nil
Appendicitis	1
Road Traffic Accidents	3
Other Accidents	2
Other defined Diseases	19

RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Rates per **1,000** *Civilian Population* :—

Still Births	0.46
Live Births	16.1

Deaths :—

All Causes	11.4
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.02
Diphtheria	0.02
Influenza	0.08
Smallpox	0.00
Measles	0.02

Rates per 1,000 *Live Births* :—

Deaths under 1 year of age	46
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years	5.6

CANCER

25 Persons died from Cancer within the year, being 10 males and 15 females, which is equivalent to 2.5 per 1,000 of the population, and at the rate of 204 per 1,000 deaths, as compared with 1.7 and 160 respectively for the previous year.

TUBERCULOSIS

(*New Cases and Mortality during* 1945)

Age Periods	NEW CASES. Respiratory		NEW CASES. Non-Respiratory.		DEATHS. Respiratory.		DEATHS. Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1— 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5—10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10—15	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
15—20	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0
20—25	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0
25—35	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
35—45	1	4	0	0	0	1	0	0
45—55	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55—65	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 & upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	6	12	0	1	0	3	0	0

The number of cases notified during the year was 18 respiratory and 1 female non-respiratory. The respiratory cases consisted of 6 males and 12 females, as compared with 2 males and 8 females for the previous year. 3 males and 6 females did not actually belong to the district.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis accounted for three deaths, all being females, as compared with 1 male and three females for the previous year. Th total deaths from this disease during the year was equivalent to 24 per 1,000 deaths registered, which is comparatively lower than the average in previous years.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Apart from Whooping Cough, Measles and Scarlet Fever, the incidence of notifiable diseases has been remarkably low within the District during the year.

The following cases were notified :—

Dysentery	4
Undulant Fever	1
Scarlet Fever	20
Diphtheria	1
Pneumonia	13
Measles	153
Whooping Cough	38

It is gratifying to observe that only one case of Diphtheria was notified within the district during the year, and this case occurred in a non-immunised child in a Public Institution.

17 of the Scarlet Fever cases, which were of a mild nature, occurred in a large children's school.

An epidemic of Measles started in January, and continued to spread throughout the district until early in July, when it abruptly abated. Although such a large number of cases occurred the disease did not cause any deaths.

Whooping Cough was somewhat prevalent in several parts of the district during the early part of the year, the majority of the cases occurring in the Gyffylliog and adjoining localities.

DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLAXIS

Based upon the following estimates of population—

Age Group 0— 5	714
Age Group 5—15	2,025

the percentage immunised is approximately :—

Age Group 0— 5	98.6
Age Group 0—15	99.8

Number Immunised during the year :—

Between 5 and 15	242
Under 5	170

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

There have been no changes during the year in the Services provided under the following headings :—

Public Health Officers.

Laboratory Facilities.

Ambulance Facilities.

Clinic and Treatment Centres.

Hospitals.

Tuberculosis.

Venereal Diseases.

Maternity and Nursing.

Legislation in Force.

Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service in Conway.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

Samples of water have been taken from the twelve sources of supply throughout the Rural District, and of these only two were unsatisfactory. One of these sources is to be discontinued, and at the other improvements are to be carried out.

Proposed Water Schemes are being prepared involving improvements relative to storage capacities, filtration, and chlorination at the sources of supply in the Parishes of Llanrhaiadr, Llangynhafal, Llanfair D.C, Llanferres, Llandegla, and Bryneglwys, and many miles of new water mains are proposed for the purpose of giving a supply to villages and farm districts which at present do not reap the benefit of a public supply. Those sources of supply which are of poor quality or which fail in dry periods will be abandoned, and new supplies given from reliable sources. It is the aim of the Council to give to each part of the Rural District a pure, wholesome, and constant water supply.

During the year 10 additional houses were connected to the Council's water mains, together with 9 farm premises and 7 connections for cattle troughs in fields. Many more applications for new water supplies have been received, and are receiving attention.

Approximately 50 per cent. of the houses throughout the Rural District have a piped water supply.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The case of stream pollution which I referred to in my last report still exists. I am pleased to report that this will soon be remedied. Consulting Engineers have now devised a Scheme for the proper treatment of the effluent which was the cause of the pollution.

DRAINS AND SEWERAGE

24 cases of defective drainage were dealt with, and in 6 cases new drains were laid.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

During the year only 4 new water closets were provided for existing premises. The great difficulty in obtaining materials and skilled labour to carry out the work militated against greater improvement.

SCAVENGING

The Council's Scheme for the removal of refuse continues to function well, although many difficulties have been met, due to the breakdown of plant, the consequent delay in getting new parts, and the frequent change in personnel who were in charge of the Plant.

Following inspections carried out during the year :—

141 nuisances existed.
133 were remedied, leaving 8 outstanding.

The 133 nuisances were remedied after consultation with the Owners. I am confident that the outstanding nuisances will be remedied at an early date.

SEWERAGE DISPOSAL

I hope that the Council will soon consider installing modern schemes of Sewerage Disposal for all villages and hamlets in the District.

CLASSIFICATION OF VISITS

Visits in respect of nuisance abatement	241
Visits in respect of drainage work	52
Visits in respect of water supplies	14

Visits to Bakehouses	21
Visits to Slaughter Houses (apart frm meat inspection)	—
Visits to Cowsheds and Dairies	524
Visits for Food Inspection	63
Visits to investigate infectious diseases (incl. T.B.)	51
Re-visits and disinfection	47
Visits to Factories and Workshops	68

CLASSIFICATION OF DEFECTS FOUND

Overcrowding and dirty houses	11
Defective structures	14
W.C. Fittings	16
Stopped Drains	34
Defective drainage	4
Defective Roofs and Spouting	31
Defective Floors	4
Defective Water Supplies	6
Dampness	44
Number of Premises disinfected	49

HOUSING

Number erected during the year	Nil
Reconstructed	5

The Council has given due consideration to the Report prepared by the Rural Housing Sub-Committee of the Central Housing Advisory Committee and also Circular 64/44. It became a Member of the Joint County Housing Committee, and has decided to implement the recommendations contained in the Report. It is proposed to make a detailed survey of all houses in the District. In view of cases of serious overcrowding and bad housing conditions it has been decided to concentrate firstly on houses of low rateable value and those known to be sub-standard.

It is important that the Housing Survey is expeditiously carried out, thus enabling the Council to know its true position in Housing and also to prepare for the future needs of the District.

I hope that the Council will favourably consider the appointment of an Additional Sanitary Inspector, as otherwise it is an impossibility for the necessary duties in connection with housing, etc., to be carried out efficiently in view of the extensive area of the district.

INSPECTION OF DWELLINGS DURING THE YEAR

Total number inspected	34
Total number fit (included in subhead above)	12
Total number unfit (included in subhead above)	10
Total number found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	12

REMEDY OF DEFECTS

Number of defective dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	7

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER

Number of Farms 749, of which 41 are T. Tested and 62 Accredited, as compared with the numbers 675, 8 and 74 for the previous year.

There is one Authority in the District authorised to operate Milk Heat Treatment Plants. The Creamery treat from 8,000 to 22,000 gallons per day during the peak periods. Regular samples were taken for Phosphatase and Methylene Blue Tests. The first samples were not up to standard, but subsequent tests have been satisfactory.

FOOD

The following food was seized and destroyed, being unfit for human consumption :—

Butter	14½	lbs.
Bacon	37	,,
Tinned Fish	41	,,
Tinned Meat	54	,,

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT

Garages	5
Flour Mills	6
Electric Light Works	3
Saw Mills	6
Bakehouses	6
Building Trades	5
Butter Factory	1
Others	8
	40

The above were periodically inspected.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BY-LAWS OR REGULATIONS

There were no offensive trades or hop-pickers in the District.

SCHOOLS

All Elementary Schools within the District were inspected during the year.

RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911 AND 1928

There were no premises within the District on which Rag Flock is manufactured, used or sold.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Particulars of samples of food and drugs, taken under the above Act, in the Ruthin Rural District during the year ended the 31st December, 1945.

Article.	Number Taken.	Genuine.	Not Genuine or Sub-Standard.
Milk	7	7	
Butter	3	3	
Jam	1	1	
Flour	1	1	
Sweets	1	1	
Tinned Peas	1	1	
Marmalade	1	1	
Cheese	1	1	
Totals	16	16	0

All the samples taken were certified as being genuine, and free from all prohibited preservatives, and colouring matter.

D. WYNNE GRIFFITH,

Chief Inspector for the County of Denbigh.

16, Woodland Road East,
Colwyn Bay.

RAINFALL

I am again indebted to Major Bromhead, Plas Draw, Ruthin, for the Rainfall Report for 1945. He states that the rainfall for 1945 was 5.33 below the average. November had the lowest rainfall since the records started in 1899. A damp year with little sun. Frost the first four days of May ruined the fruit crop, which was forward as the three previous months had been warm.

January	3.27
February	2.28
March	0.99
April	1.87
May	3.64
June	2.48
July	2.08
August	1.95
September	1.78
October	4.52
November	0.4
December	2.91
	27.17

GENERAL.

Mr. R. C. Williams; Sanitary Inspector, retired in June, and Mr. T. Hughes was appointed to replace him. I desire to express my sincere appreciation of the excellent work done by both, which was very difficult, owing to the existing abnormal conditions.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

T. O. JONES,

Medical Officer of Health.